

The Sunday School

LESSON 8—FEBRUARY 25, 1900

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth—Luke 4:16-30

Golden Text—He came unto his own, and his own received him not.—John 1:11.

Lesson Thought.—Jesus the Christ of God is the remedy for all the ills of life.

Time.—After the close of the Passover April A. D. 28.

Place.—Nazareth, in Galilee.

Persons.—John the Baptist just imprisoned in the Castle Macherus by Herod. Jesus had five disciples, Peter, John, Andrew, Philip, Nathanael, and perhaps James, the brother of John.

Home Readings

Read Matthew 4:13-16; Mark 1:14-15; John 4:46-54; 5:36-47; Luke 13:24-35; 20:9-18.

Lesson Text

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and he entered, as his custom was, into the synagog on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And he opened the book, and found the place where it was written.

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, Because he anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor: He hath sent me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovering of sight to the blind, To set at liberty them that are bruised.

19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it back to the attendant, and sat down: and the eyes of all in the synagog were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, Today hath this scripture been fulfilled in your ears.

22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the words of grace which proceeded out of his mouth: and they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

23 And he said unto them, Doubtless ye will say unto me this parable, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done at Capernaum, do also here in thine own country.

24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, no prophet is acceptable in his own country.

25 But of a truth I say unto you, There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there came a great famine over all the land;

26 And unto none of them was Elijah sent, but only to Zarepath, in the land of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.

28 And they were all filled with wrath in the synagog, as they heard these things:

29 And they rose up, and cast him forth out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they may throw him down headlong.

30 But he passing thru the midst of them went his way.

The Lesson For Young People

J. R. Miller.

1. *Jesus never shrank from bearing witness to the truth.*

It took courage for Jesus to go back to Nazareth. It was not easy for him to assert his tremendous claims in the ears of those with whom he had played as a boy and worked as a man. He realized that in the smallness of their souls they could see in him nothing more than Joseph's son. But Jesus never shrank from hard duties. He knew

that he should bear witness of his heavenly Father, and of his own high mission, to those who would scorn and scoff. Therefore he did it. That was Christ's brave way.

2. *We should learn from Jesus a lesson in churchgoing.*

Luke doesn't say much about Christ's habit of attending public worship in God's house. He simply passes by the fact with the remark, "As his custom was." It was natural for Jesus to go where his Father's word was read and expounded. There is small room for discussion of the propriety of going to church. We ought to be found in the Lord's house on the Lord's day. Ordinarily, it is the only proper place for us at that time.

3. *Christians should always remember their mission.*

At one of our big military camps there was one day a disturbance by the railroad station. Scores of men, most of them soldiers, were interested in the fighting. But into the melee came a corporal and two privates, pushing men aside to the right and the left, and quickly dispersing the crowd. Why were these three soldiers of low rank so fearless in entering into the disturbance? Because they were the provost guard, and knew that they had authority to do just that. A knowledge of their special commission gave them fearlessness and power. Christ's course is often to be explained on this same ground. He knew that he had been anointed and sent by the Father. The consciousness of his divine mission never left him. Therefore he was outspoken and courageous in declaring the truth and in defying all foes. Likewise, the remembrance of our high calling and our holy commission should make us brave in witnessing and in endeavoring.

4. *We should know the Bible, for we shall need it.*

Jesus knew the scripture. No day in his life more clearly revealed this fact than the day in the Nazareth synagog. Out of the scripture, learned in the days of his youth in this same town, he got the message for this great hour. Thus the words of the blessed book came to his aid again and again at crisis times.

5. *It is better to know Christ by faith than by sight.*

"I think when I read that sweet story of old,
When Jesus was here among men,
How he called little children as lambs to his fold,
I should like to have been with them then."

So we sing. But we should be glad that we can know Jesus better now than any one who saw him in the body ever knew him. Perhaps we might have rejected him, like his Nazareth neighbors. His best disciples did not understand the Savior or his words as we may understand them.

6. *Jesus is the best friend of the poor.*

Jesus is not merely a rich man's Savior. His religion offers no privileges to the wealthy and the famed. There are no indulgences in the gospel that money can buy,

after the fashion of the days of Tetzal. Christ came to preach glad tidings to the poor. He entered the world poor and lived as a poor man, that he might the better show that he was a Savior for the poor. Christ's gospel is good news—and, generally, prosperity—for the hungry and the impoverished in spirit and in body.

7. *Christ's gospel is the only hope for the sorrowing.*

In his death, Mr. Ingersoll preached more eloquently than ever in his life. The message of that cold body, which the bereaved family could not bear to put away, because they had no hope of a hereafter, touched the heart of a nation. The hopelessness of infidelity was never more pathetically revealed. Jesus brought a gospel of hope. There was no healing for the broken-hearted until he came. But he has given men a gospel that enables them with tearless eyes to lower into the grave their best beloved.

Lesson Links

Jesus at the request of the Samaritans remained at Sychar two days teaching them about himself as the promised Messiah. Then he went into Galilee. The Galileans received him with honor, because they had seen his wonderful deeds at Jerusalem at the time of the Passover. His fame had gone before him. At Cana, where he had made the water wine, he was met by a nobleman, who had heard of the fame of Jesus, and whose son lay at home in Capernaum sick unto death. With all of a father's anxious love he implored Jesus to come down and heal the boy. After testing him Jesus told him to go home and that he would find his son well. It seems that from here the disciples returned to their former homes on the Lake of Galilee and Jesus proceeded to his old home at Nazareth.

Helpful Books

Helps cannot take the place of the Bible itself, but he is not a wise teacher or scholar who will despise helps which minister to a better understanding of the Bible. I have found specially helpful brother J. Allen Miller's *Analysis of the Gospel of John*, *Brethren Quarterly*, *Edersheim's Life and Times of the Messiah*, and *Farrar's Life of Christ*.

Good Tests of a Sunday-School

Pennsylvania Herald.

Have you a progressive Sabbath-school? Test it—

Is its membership larger than the church membership?

Have you adult classes equal to one-fourth of your enrollment?

Have you had at least ten per cent. of your school join the church this year?

Do you have quarterly or annual examinations of your scholars?

Have you the second lesson or the supplementary work?

Have you a Home Department?

What are you doing for teacher training and graded courses?—